GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:535
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Modern Infrastructure for Soil Testing
Birla Shri Om;Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide state-of-the-art/advanced infrastructure and equipment to enhance the performance and capacity of soil testing laboratories in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has observed any reduction in excessive use of urea in States like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan since issuance of soil health cards and testing of soil by the laboratories therein and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether paucity of funds has been reported in the implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the funds spent on Soil Health Cards as against funds allocated during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 535 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11TH APRIL, 2017.

(a): Government is providing financial assistance to State Governments for setting up new soil testing laboratories and strengthening of existing laboratories. The project cost for a new Static or Mobile laboratory is Rs. 75 lakhs. The project cost for a mini soil testing laboratory is Rs. 86,000 + applicable tax. The norm for financial assistance for strengthening an existing static soil testing laboratory is Rs 40 lakhs. The funding is shared between Government of India and State Governments in the ratio of 90:10 for North Eastern & Himalayan States and 60:40 for other States.

(b): Consumption of urea in Haryana has shown a reduction from 339.84 kg/ ha in 2014-15 to 330.93 kg per hectare in 2015-16. Consumption of urea in Punjab and Rajasthan have shown a rising trend. However, the average consumption of urea in the country has shown a reduction from 152.53 kg/ ha in 2014-15 to 149.61 kg/ ha in 2015-16. A statement on per hectare consumption of urea is placed at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): There is no paucity of funds in the implementation of the Scheme. A Statement on funds allocated and released to States during the last three years under Soil Health Card Scheme is given at Annexure-II.